

Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Texas

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FLORIDA TRUCK DRIVER SENTENCED TO 90 MONTHS FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CONVICTIONS

(BROWNSVILLE, TX) **Michael A. Lyon,** 44, of Niceville, Florida, has been sentence to a 90 month prison term for receipt of child pornography over the internet and possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Lyon, who pled guilty on February 28, 2006 to the two federal felony offenses, was sentenced today, August 23, 2006, by United States District Judge Andrew S. Hanen.

At today's sentencing hearing, the court determined that Lyon's criminal conducted included several aggravating factors which incrementally increased the sentencing range. Those factors included possession of more than 600 images of child pornography; at least one of which depicted a child younger than 12 years of age; and included images portraying sadistic, masochistic or acts of violence. Additionally, the court found that Lyon used a computer to receive the child pornography.

All federal prison terms are without parole. After completing his prison term, the court further ordered Lyon to serve a five year term of supervised release. Supervised release is a form of probation with conditions imposed by the court, which if violated could result in an additional prison term. Today, in addition to the general conditions to be followed during any term of supervised release -- not commit any federal or state offense, prohibited from possessing firearms, etc. -- the court also imposed the following special conditions: Lyon must register as a sex offender, is prohibited from possessing or receiving child pornography or using a computer with internet access, and is further prohibited from contact with minor children.

The charges against Lyon are the result of an investigation conducted by the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement which began on September 15, 2005, when Lyon arrived at the export lot located at the Veterans International Port of Entry in Brownsville, Texas. Lyon was the sole occupant and operator of a tractor trailer that had arrived from Florida with a shipment that was to be exported from Brownsville. An inspection of the tractor trailer by Customs officials resulted in the discovery of child pornography within the tractor's cab. Discovered within the cab was a lap top computer and computer discs. The computer was found to contain in excess of two thousand images of child pornography. The computer discs each contained in excess of seven thousand images of pornography including child pornography.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angel Castro.

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